

Message Text

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64

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 SPC-03 NSC-07 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 EB-11 AGR-20 COME-00 OMB-01 TAR-02

TRSE-00 SIL-01 LAB-06 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

PA-04 PRS-01 DRC-01 /112 W

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O 252324Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1899

UNCLASSIFIED BOGOTA 2500

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, CO

SUBJECT: COUNTERVAILING DUTY - LETTER FROM FOREIGN
MINISTER VAZQUEZ CARRIZOSA TO SECRETARY
KISSINGER

1. EMB HAS RECEIVED ADVANCE COPY OF LETTER FROM
COLOMBIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ALFREDO VAZQUEZ CARRIZOSA
TO SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY A. KISSINGER ON SUBJECT
CUT FLOWER EXPORTS TO U.S. FORMAL TEXT EXPECTED
TOMORROW AND WILL BE TRANSMITTED TO DEPARTMENT. IN
SUMMARY LETTER MAKES FOLLOWING POINTS: TAX CREDIT
SYSTEM DOES NOT STRICTLY CONSTITUTE A SUBSIDY
JUSTIFYING THE APPLICATION OF COUNTERVAILING DUTY
LAW. COLOMBIAN FLOWER INDUSTRY, EMPLOYING
CONSIDERABLE LABOR, IS A CLEAR EXAMPLE OF EXPORT
DIVERSIFICATION ON WHICH IMPOSITION OF COUNTERVAILING
DUTY WOULD AFFECT GOC EMPLOYMENT POLICY. EFFECT OF
COUNTERVAILING DUTY WOULD BE VERY PREJUDICIAL TO
COLOMBIA AND A BAD PRECEDENT IN OUR RECIPROCAL
COMMERCE; IT WOULD BE NOTHING LESS THAN A COMMERCIAL
REPRISAL FROM A HIGHLY INDUSTRIAL COUNTRY TO A
DEVELOPING ONE AND WOULD SIGNIFY A RETROGRESSIVE
STEP IN THE GENERAL POLICY OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION
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ACCEPTED BY THE U.S. IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

U.S. COUNTERVAILING DUTY LAW ANTEDATES ECONOMIC COOPERATION POLICIES ACCEPTED BY RICH COUNTRIES IN RECENT YEARS IN SUCH FORUMS AS UN, UNCTAD, GATT. PRESENT PROCEEDING IS NOT AN ISOLATED CASE BUT RATHER WOULD PUT IN DOUBT GENERAL INTERNATIONAL PRINCIPLES AND PROGRAMS OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION. PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AS ANNOUNCED BY PRESIDENT NIXON WITH RESPECT TO LATIN AMERICA IN 1970, WOULD BE SEEN TO BE COMPROMISED AND CERTAINLY QUESTIONED. U.S. ACTION COMES AFTER TLATELOLCO CONFERENCE WHERE U.S. DESIRE FOR A NEW DIALOG WITH LATIN AMERICA WAS REAFFIRMED AND A FEW WEEKS BEFORE THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S CONFERENCE APRIL 17 - 18. THIS CASE RAISES THE ESSENTIAL QUESTION OF WHETHER U.S. SINCERELY WANTS TO HELP THE EXPORT DIVERSIFICATION POLICIES OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES OR IF A NEW INDUSTRY GENERATING EMPLOYMENT IN THE OUTSKIRTS OF LARGE CITIES CAN BE THE OBJECT OF COMMERCIAL REPRISALS BY AN INDUSTRIAL COUNTRY. IT WOULD BE MOST APPROPRIATE IF INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES WOULD NOT IMPOSE NEW MEASURES AGAINST TRADE EXPANSION OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES PENDING FORTHCOMING MTN. COLOMBIA HAS SINCERELY WISHED TO ASSIST THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW POLICY BETWEEN U.S. AND LATIN AMERICA BUT THE PEOPLE OF LATIN AMERICA WOULD NOT UNDERSTAND HOW A NEW DIALOG COULD PROCEED ON A BASIS DISTINCT FROM ONE OF ECONOMIC JUSTICE FOR THE COUNTRIES OF THIS CONTINENT. FOREIGN MINISTER STATES HE IS CERTAIN THAT SECRETARY WILL APPRECIATE JUSTICE OF THIS LETTER THAT IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO AVOID THE MEASURES PROPOSED BY THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT. VAKY

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